

not mentioned, I believe, in any work on British ornithology to which I have access; but in Dr. Latham's 'General History' it is described as the *Perdix Gibraltarica*, with which my specimen appears to agree. The bird was shot by the gamekeeper on the Cornwell estate in this county, about three miles from hence, and has been kindly presented to me. It was found in a field of barley, of which kind of grain, by the by, hundreds of acres are still standing, with no prospect of being harvested in a proper state. Before I proceeded to preserve the bird, I took the measure of its various parts, the colour of its eyes, bill and feet, its weight, &c., after which I found its description in the work above alluded to. It was shot on the 29th of October last, since which time another has been killed near the same spot by the same person, but its head was shot off, and otherwise so mutilated as to be unfit for preservation: this might probably complete the pair, mine being a male bird. It had in its gizzard two or three husks of barley, several small seeds similar to charlock, some particles of gravel, and was very fat. It was considerably injured by the shot, but I have set it up in the best manner I could, and consider it a valuable addition to my small collection of British birds. Should this prove to be the only known instance of the capture of the bird in Britain, I shall feel glad in having saved it from oblivion.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Chipping Norton, Oxon, Nov. 11, 1844.

THOS. GOATLEY.

[The bird in question is the *Hemipodius tachydromus* of Temminck, which is figured in Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Europe,' vol. iv. plate 264. Mr. Gould, to whom we have shown Mr. Goatley's letter, considers this one of the most interesting additions to the British fauna that has occurred for many years.—Ed.]

#### ELATINE HYDROPIPER.

Mr. W. O. Newnham of St. John's College, Cambridge, has found this very rare plant in two ponds near Farnham, Surrey, on opposite sides of the town, namely, Frensham Pond and Cuck Mills Pond: in both places it was accompanied by *E. hexandra*. It is a most interesting addition to the flora of the south of England, and the young naturalist by whom it has been discovered deserves great credit for accuracy of observation. The only recorded localities are in Anglesea and Ireland.—C. C. B.

#### HURA CREPITANS.

A fruit of *Hura crepitans* from which the seeds had been removed (probably by cutting them out), and which had been kept by M. Poncet in a glass for ten years, suddenly burst with a noise like the report of a pistol, and its divisions with the fragments of the glass were scattered about the room. M. Schlectendal informs us that he once left a perfect fruit of this plant on the corner of a stove, and was in the next room, when it burst with a noise as if a quantity of china had fallen to the ground, and its valves and seeds were scattered to the extremities of a room twelve feet square.—*Botanische Zeitung*, Nov. 8, 1844.